

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for offering financial instruments to pre-qualified consumers, comprising:

a receiving unit ~~for receiving~~ configured to receive information ~~from~~ of a consumer, each consumer having a unique identifier, the received consumer information being transmitted regardless of a request by the consumer to transmit the consumer information;

a first interface unit ~~for interfacing~~ configured to interface with the receiving unit and ~~for communicating~~ further configured to communicate at least some of the consumer information to portions of the system; and

a second interface unit in communication with the system ~~for communicating~~ configured to communicate at least some consumer ~~data~~ information to and to receive pre-qualification data from at least one third party[.];

wherein ~~the at least one third party~~ pre-qualification data relates to at least one financial instrument that the consumer is qualified to be offered based on information stored in ~~accesses~~ a pre-qualified consumer database that is accessed by the third party upon receipt of the consumer information from the system, wherein the pre-qualification database comprises ~~comprising~~ a plurality of first consumer files, each first consumer filed linked to a unique consumer identifier that can be identified based upon the received consumer information from the system, where the first consumer files comprise at least one pre-qualified financial instrument associated with a financial institution, ~~wherein~~

~~further a consumer having a unique identifier who contacts the system is offered at least one of the pre-qualified financial instruments stored in the first consumer file that is linked to the unique identifier of the consumer.~~

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 1, wherein the unique identifier is determined from at least some of the information received from the consumer
3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 1, wherein the first interface unit comprises a human operator.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 1, wherein the first interface unit comprises a processor programmed with ~~CTI~~ a Computer Telephony Interface and a voice response unit.
5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 1, wherein the first consumer file further comprises authentication information.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 1, wherein the consumer ~~data~~ information comprises authentication information.
7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 6, wherein the authentication information comprises a calling telephone number, a "cookie," a PIN, a password, a biometric, fingerprints, retinal scan, DNA, facial matching or any other information known or held by the consumer that can be used to authenticate the identity of the consumer.
8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 1, wherein the third party accesses a suppression database comprising a plurality of second consumer files, each of the second consumer files linked to a unique consumer identifier, wherein the second consumer files comprise suppression information relating to a determination that the consumer

associated with the second consumer file is no longer qualified to be offered one or more of the pre-qualified financial instruments stored in the first consumer file, wherein further the consumer is qualified to be offered at least one of the pre-qualified financial instruments stored in the first consumer file that is linked to the unique identifier of the consumer only if there is no suppression information in the second consumer file that is linked to the unique identifier of the consumer.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 8, wherein the suppression information comprise at least one of credit rating of the consumer, income level of the consumer, debt level of the consumer, payment history of the consumer, bankruptcy filings and indications that the consumer has opted out of the sharing of personal information for marketing purposes.
10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 1, wherein further the consumer is qualified to be offered the financial instrument only if the most recent credit rating of the consumer as determined substantially at the time of receiving the consumer information compares favorably to a pre-determined threshold credit rating.
11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 1, wherein further the consumer is qualified to be offered the financial instrument ~~only if~~ upon agreement by the consumer ~~agrees~~ to any and all terms and conditions associated with the financial instrument.
12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for offering financial instruments to pre-qualified consumers, comprising:

a receiving unit for receiving information from a consumer, each consumer having a unique identifier, the received consumer information being transmitted regardless of a request by the consumer to transmit the consumer information;

an interface unit for interfacing with the receiving unit and for communicating at least some of the consumer information to portions of the system;

a data processor in communication with the interface unit for processing at least some of the consumer information;

a pre-qualified consumer database comprising a plurality of first consumer files, each first consumer file linked to the unique consumer identifier of a consumer, where the first consumer files comprise at least one pre-qualified financial instrument;

a suppression database comprising a plurality of second consumer files, each of the second consumer files linked to the unique consumer identifier of a consumer, wherein the second consumer files comprise suppression information relating to a determination that the consumer associated with the second consumer file is no longer qualified to be offered one or more of the pre-qualified financial instruments stored in the first consumer file;

wherein a consumer having a unique identifier who contacts the system is qualified to be offered at least one of the pre-qualified financial instruments stored in the first consumer file that is linked to the unique identifier of the consumer if there is no suppression information in the second consumer file that is linked to the unique identifier of the consumer.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~method~~ system of claim 12, further comprising determining the unique identifier of the consumer from at least some of the information received from the consumer.
14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for offering financial instruments to pre-qualified consumers, comprising:

receiving information related to personal identification information of a consumer, the received consumer personal identification information being transmitted regardless of a request by the consumer to transmit the consumer personal identification information;

inquiring a third party based on the received information related to the consumer personal identification information whether the consumer has been pre-qualified for a financial instrument, the financial instrument associated with a financial institution; and

offering the consumer the financial instrument for which he or she is pre-qualified, if the third party confirms that the consumer is pre-qualified for a financial instrument,

wherein the third party maintains consumer information relating to consumer pre-qualification for financial instruments, wherein further the standards for the consumer pre-qualification are set by the financial institution.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 14, wherein pre-qualification of the consumer comprises checking at least one of the credit rating of the consumer, the income level of the consumer, the debt level of the consumer and the payment history of the consumer with the financial institution.
16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 15, wherein pre-qualification of the consumer occurs prior to receipt of the consumer ~~contact~~ personal identification information.
17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 16, wherein the third party maintains consumer information in files indexed by a unique identifier.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 17, wherein the unique identifier relates to the personal identification information of the consumer.
19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 18, further comprising offering the financial instrument to the consumer only if the consumer credit rating ~~substantially at the time of the consumer contact~~ meets or exceeds a pre-determined condition.
20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 19, wherein the financial instrument comprises any financial instrument for which credit information relating to the consumer is predictive.
21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 20, wherein the financial instrument comprises at least one of a car loan, boat loan, loan on investment property, margin account, business loan, second mortgage, home equity line of credit, consumer loan, transaction card, credit card, loyalty card, co-branded credit card, debit card, rewards card, smart card, mutual fund or insurance.
22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 21, wherein the consumer is offered the financial instrument only if one or more pre-determined conditions ~~related to the purpose or channel of the consumer contact~~ are met.
23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 22, wherein the ~~purpose of the~~ consumer personal identification information is obtained when the consumer makes contact ~~comprises~~ a purchase from a merchant.
24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 22, wherein the ~~channel of the~~ consumer personal identification information is obtained through contact ~~comprises one of~~ a communication from a business partner of the financial institution or a communication directly to the financial institution.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 24, ~~channel of the consumer~~ personal identification information is obtained through contact ~~comprises one of a telephone call or contact over a computer network.~~
26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 25, further comprising offering the financial instrument only upon the acceptance of any terms and conditions related to the financial instrument by the consumer.
27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 25, further comprising offering the financial instrument to the consumer only if the identity of the consumer is authenticated.
28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 27, wherein authenticating the consumer comprises favorable comparison of stored consumer information to consumer personal identification information ~~received substantially at the time of consumer contact.~~
29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 28, wherein the consumer personal identification ~~information received substantially at the time of consumer contact~~ comprises at least one of a calling telephone number, a PIN, a password, a biometric or any other information known or held by the consumer and generally not known to the public that can be used to authenticate the consumer.
30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 28, wherein authentication is performed by the third party.
31. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for offering financial instruments to pre-qualified consumers, comprising:

receiving information related to personal identification information of a consumer, the received consumer personal identification information being transmitted

regardless of a request by the consumer to transmit the consumer personal identification information;

inquiring a third party based on the received information related to the consumer personal identification information whether the consumer has been pre-qualified for a financial instrument, the financial instrument associated with a financial institution; and

offering the consumer the financial instrument for which he or she is pre-qualified, if the third party confirms that the consumer is pre-qualified for a financial instrument,

wherein the third party maintains consumer information relating to consumer pre-qualification for financial instruments, wherein further the standards for the consumer pre-qualification are set by the financial institution, wherein further the financial instrument comprises any financial instrument for which credit information relating to the consumer is predictive.